Unutilised food stocks lying at budge budge West Bengal

431. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the food stocks lying unutilised at the Food Corporation of India godown at Budge-Budge, West Bengal since October 30, 1987;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether these stocks have been allocated to the West Bengal Government; and

(d) if so, whether these food stocks have been damaged due to their non-utilisation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The stocks could not be issued due to closure of the depot following inter-union rivalry. The dispute stands settled now and the depot has been re-opened.

(c) The stocks found fit for issue stand allotted to the West Bengal Government.

(d) Due to closure of the depot some stocks of foodgrains have slided down to lower category. These stocks can, however, be issued after due cleaning/upgrading.

Neem based insecticides

432. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Neem had been used traditionally in the country for centuries as a pesticide;

(b) whether any effective Neem product has been developed by our scientists;

(c) whether any technology of Neem Insecticides has been developed and made available under 'Lab to Land' programme of ICAR; and

(d) whether any self contained document likely to be prepared on the subject for knowledge of general public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The ICAR Institutes have already issued bulletins for farmers on the utility of Neem.

Conference on neem and other insecticides of plant origin

433. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference was held on Neem and other insecticides of plant origin last year in Nairobi which was attended by Indian Scientists and if so, the recommendations made thereof; and

(b) the follow up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir. The conference was held in Nairobi in 1986 and was attended by Indian Scientists. In all, there were seven resolutions that were passed, concerning various aspects of neem tree cultivation and its usages (List of resolutions appended) *(See statement below)*.

(b) The divisions of Entomology and the Agricultural Chemicals at The Indian Agricultural Research Institute are taking the follow up action. A new National Centre on Agro-forestry has been set up recently, which besides other trees, will also look after the cultivation aspects of Neem.

Statement

RESOLUTIONS

1. That farmers in the least developed areas, where Neem trees (Azadirachta indica) are abundant, should be shown how to make and use a simple aqueous suspension of neem seeds to combat insect pests.

2. That were simple technology is available, pilot plant and small village-based factories should be established for the production of simple neem products, such as one-step extracts.

3. That national extension services should be encouraged to conduct demonstration trials with neem products (extracts of seeds, aqueous suspensions, dusts, granules, cake; oil).

4. That the extension services should advise farmers that only seeds of good quality be collected and used for preparation of the various products.

5. That they draw attention to the importance of neem trees to the general agroforestry system, to their importance for firewood, timber, windbreaks, soil improvement, and prevention of erosion.

6. Neem trees should be planted in all climatically suitable enviornments, and especially in the African arid zone.

7. Aid organisations should support all neem-related activities from research to practical application of neem products.

Import of white butter by maharashtra

434. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra Government has asked permission of the Government of India to import white Butter and skimmed Milk Powder; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Govt. of Maharashtra requested for supply of about 6000 MT of skimmed milk powder and 2850 of white butter to enable them to maintain milk supply to metropolitan areas. The matter is under consideration.

Allotment of rice and wheat to Maharashtra State

435. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the monthly requirement of rice and wheat communicated to Government by State of Maharashtra;

(b) the monthly allotment made in the last six months; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to increase the allotment to the requested level?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) and (b) A statement giving the required information is attached. (*See* below)

(c) The existing allocations are considered reasonable.